



Bulletin

of the Mahoning County Medical Society
Second Quarter 2014

Nancy L. Gantt, MD Honored as 2014 Distinguished Physician



Dr. Nancy L. Gantt (center), 2014 Distinguished Physician with Dr. Jenifer Lloyd (right) and Dr. Rashid Abdu (left)

Doctor Nancy L. Gantt was named 2014 Distinguished Physician by the Mahoning County Medical Society and presented with a plaque commemorating the honor at the Annual Meeting of the Society on Tuesday, May 6, 2014, at The Lake Club in Poland. Presenting the award to Dr. Gantt was Dr. Jenifer Lloyd. Dr. Gantt was joined by her husband, Dr. Raymond Boniface, her son Raymond, her in-laws, Dr. and Mrs. Raymond S. Boniface, Dr. Tom Boniface and Dr. Lisa Young, and Dr. Jim Boniface and his wife Christine.

Dr. Lloyd said noted that Dr. Gantt is the first woman to receive the MCMS Distinguished Physician Award since its inception in 1977. Dr. Rashid Abdu offered some remarks about Dr. Gantt's work as Co-Medical Director of the Joanie Abdu Comprehensive Breast Care Center.

Dr. Gantt is Professor of Surgery, Master Teacher and Surgical Curriculum Director at Northeast Ohio Medical University in Rootstown, Ohio. As Curriculum Director her responsibilities include curriculum development and integration, and supervision of 8 geographically-separate surgical clerkships. Dr. Gantt's general and breast surgery practice is based at St. Elizabeth Health Center in Youngstown, Ohio. At SEHC, she is active in medical student education and serves as Associate Director of Resident Education. She serves as HMHP ACS Cancer Liaison Physician and is Co-Medical Director of the NAPBC-accredited Joanie Abdu Comprehensive Breast Care Center.

Nationally, Dr. Gantt is active in the American College of Surgeons and proudly serves as President-Elect of the Association of Women Surgeons. She is Secretary of the Ohio Chapter of the ACS. She is also active in the Association for Surgical Education and serves on the Curriculum Committee and as Chair of the Clerkship Directors' Committee.

Also honored at the dinner were the recipients of the Ohio State Medical Association Fifty Years in Medicine Award. Honored were Dr. Consuelo Alberran, Abdul Ghani, Dr. Shawki Habib, Dr. Jae Joo Lee, and Dr. Amarjeet Nagpaul. They received their medical degrees in 1964.

Bulletin

*Editor Michael T. Engle, MD
Managing Editor Karyn Frederick
Editorial Board*

Sean T. McGrath, MD Thomas E. Albani, MD
The Bulletin is published quarterly by the
Mahoning County Medical Society, 565 E. Main Street, Suite 220,
Canfield, Ohio 44406.

Phone (330) 533-4880 Fax (330) 533-4940.
www.mahoningmed.org

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CALENDAR

August 24, 2014

Rod Stewart, Covelli Centre

August 27~ September 1, 2014

Canfield Fair

In Memoriam

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*Robert B. McConnell, MD
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The Scarlet Letter

"You should be ashamed of yourself!" I hastily admit that I heard this much too often in my younger years. I would bow my head and look away as I felt that gut wrenching feeling of knowing that I know better. I'm sure most of us have had this experience at least a few times in our lives. Unfortunately, it seems our society is moving away from shame as a means to mold behavior.

I'll admit that there is a delicate balance here. I would not want to go back to the days when young women were shipped off to some distant relative left to deal with the stress of teen pregnancy without the support of their parents. However, our society has become much too accepting of detrimental behavior. It's no big deal to be willfully unemployed, disabled without a true disability, an absent father or an unwed mother. In my office, I've seen a rise of just plain mean, rude, or at the least unappreciative patients and family members. More and more these behaviors are becoming accepted.

All of these people, in the past, would be shamed for their choices. They would not be given a pass by society. Instead, society would give them negative reinforcement to help motivate them to make better choices in the future. Teen mothers would not get pregnant again. Unemployed men would work hard to find and keep the next job. And patients would learn to appreciate when a physician or office worker goes the extra mile to help them out.

A friend of mine coaches a local high school sports team. For the first time, this year all players are required to submit a urine drug screen before the season and agree to random testing throughout the year. The penalty if you are found to be using drugs or alcohol? Sit in street clothes on the bench for a few games. This way, everyone will know what you did! Just imagine cool Joe senior sitting on the bench, all the while the community knowing what he must have done to get there. I can only hope this will be the scarlet letter of shame, and not a new badge of coolness.

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, likely belonging to Michal T. Engle, MD. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

From the President

by Sean T. McGrath, MD



Amazing how insurance only covers "sure things" these days. Any medication or procedure that is not "guaranteed" or FDA approved for a specific indication is not covered now in the age of the affordable care act. Medications that patients have been on for years and medications that are generic and relatively cheap are now being called into question and their use being interrupted by pre certification requests. There is one thing I can guarantee you in health care; nothing is guaranteed!

So, I have had a medication on the four dollar drug list denied this year several times. I have had procedures that were covered last year denied this year as they are investigational or experimental according to the insurance company. They seem to want only medications and procedures proven by Evidence Based Medicine. Has anyone told them yet that only a small percentage of medicine has EBM backing and the rest is anecdotal? I'm not sure who is practicing medicine anymore. Is it doctors, insurance companies, the government, some young person with a high school diploma and a check list? I don't know, but I show up at work every day and try to do my best to treat patients, but it is getting more difficult.

My patients pay their copay, spend time away from work for visits, and patiently wait for treatment of their ailments just for the insurance company to delay or deny care. Then I have to hire new employees to fill out precertification forms and call the insurance company and, now more than ever, I get on the phone for a peer to peer review. My other option; I tell the patient "sorry, I can't help you" and send them on their way with no treatment. The last option is to charge cash which then negates the fact that they pay for insurance and now will pay cash that won't even apply toward their deductible. As I'm sure is with most of us, my office spends the time and money on more employees to deal with the insurance regulations in order to help our patients receive the care they need.

I'm not sure if this is a result of the ACA or insurance company specific, but it is intrusive to the physician-patient relationship and patient care. We, as a society, have asked the OSMA to get involved in this problem in Ohio to hopefully help alleviate this concerning issue. As this is a national issue, it is unlikely that we can squash this issue out as a single state. We call upon the OSMA to team with other state societies and the AMA to hopefully use some "force" to change this current practice. Now whether the OSMA and AMA are "strong" enough to challenge this issue is questionable and concerning at the same time.

It is time for the OSMA and the AMA to either put up or shut up. If they are unable to efficiently help physicians and patients in extremely concerning times like this, then it is time to move forward on our own to take control of our field once and for all. At our district caucus meeting, without OSMA representation present, there was some discussion of forming our own physician lead state and national society. It would definitely be an interesting and potentially game changing turn of events if we were to do so! Much of this discussion occurred because of the apparent change in the OSMA policy to centralize control and let the county societies hang out to dry. So, who do they work for and get their funds from again? Oh yeah, the individual county members that elect to join the state association.

I challenge the OSMA and the AMA to step up their game and resolve at least some of these issues in a timely manner so patient care can continue with minimal interruptions. Let's get the media involved and the patient population on board with marketing and lobbying so whoever is at the root cause of this problem is exposed and forced to do the right thing and allow patients to be treated.



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Bits 'n' Pieces

Dr. Shannon Barillare has moved. Her new address is: 3685 Stutz Drive, Suite 101, Canfield. Her phone remains the same, 330-729-9514.

Dr. Bhargava Ravi and Dr Sudhir Nallapaneni, Youngstown Internal Medicine, LLC, have opened an office in Boardman at 250 DeBartolo Place, Suite 1620. The phone number is 330-758-7312.

Dr. Edward Hobbs and Dr. Felix Pesa have retired.



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Shepherd of the Valley-Boardman Recognized for Quality Care

RESIDENT SATISFACTION: The Ohio Department of Aging recently recognized Shepherd of the Valley-Boardman as **one of the top 25 Ohio nursing homes for resident satisfaction** with an overall satisfaction score of 96.11 out of a possible 100. SOV-Boardman placed 15th in the top 25 statewide and had the **second highest score in Mahoning County**. Statewide, the average score was 87.5.

Between August 2013, and January 2014, the ODA conducted over **27,000 resident interviews at 953 skilled nursing facilities** as part of a statewide Resident Satisfaction Survey, which is conducted every other year opposite a similar survey of Ohio nursing home resident family members.

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

This commentary is submitted as a way to honor Drs. Engle and McGrath for their thoughtful, well-stated back-to-back contributions in the previous issue of *The MCMS Bulletin* (1st and 2nd Quarter 2013), while suggesting some different ways to look at the important controversies they addressed.

First, some self-introduction. I came to Youngstown in 1987 to join the faculty of the family medicine residency program at St. Elizabeth's Hospital. I had served two years in the Indian Health Service (Pine Ridge, S. D.), fifteen years of solo private practice in Huron, Ohio, and twelve years teaching family medicine in Toledo and Cincinnati. I'm fully retired now but pleased to still be on *The MCMS Bulletin* distribution list.

Dr. Engle lists a number of current trends in the U.S. healthcare arena that he, like many other doctors for whom autonomy is important, finds disconcerting. It's OK to honor a disappearing past, but more important to understand what is driving this profound change. Simply put, our present system is too costly and inefficient to continue much longer. Right now, it eats up about 17 percent of the nation's income – that's one dollar out of every six generated by the American economy. This financial drain will only get worse as increasing numbers of us survive twenty years or longer after we retire. Indeed, the [July 26](#) issue of *The Vindicator* carried an opinion piece by R. Bruce Rosten, an executive of the U. S. Chamber of Commerce, warning that many of our vital public programs face bankruptcy in coming years if they are not reworked soon. That's a really staggering set of challenges that will require our elected leaders to work together and put the nation's economic health ahead of their own.

The U. S. medical system (or non-system) is a prime target for reform, and that inevitably means external controls of some sort. Our free enterprise system does many things well, but keeping health care costs down is not one of them. America has by far the most costly medical system in the industrialized world, but our longevity and quality of life are no better than average. These hard facts are documented in numerous studies and published books. See, for example, *The Healing of America* (T. R. Reid, Penguin, 2009) or *Critical* (Tom Daschle, St. Martin's, 2008).

I agree with Dr. Engle that the recent erosion of patient-focused medical professionalism in our country is appalling. Just a few days ago I received a phone call inviting me, or any member of my family who happens to have backaches, to a free get-acquainted visit with a local doctor who just happens to focus on backs. It was obvious from the background noise that the call came from some commercial telephone bank operation.

Let's look now at Dr. McGrath's stated views on firearms regulation. My own contact with guns began at age 9 when I learned to shoot a .22 rifle at the Toledo YMCA's Camp Storer. My introduction to shotguns was equally vivid but less happy. During World War 2, when my father was on Guadalcanal with a Seabee battalion, an uncle took me duck hunting. In a careless moment I let the muzzle of Dad's 12 gauge pump gun swing past Uncle Ed's face. He gave me an unforgettable tongue lashing, which I deserved, and we went home with no ducks.

So I respect Dr. McGrath's calls for respect of firearms and reasonable access to them. However, it's time to rethink the U. S. Constitution's Second Amendment. It's only 27 words long and reads, "A well-regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed." That's all there is. It was written and adopted in the age of single-shot muzzle loaders. After one shot was fired it took several seconds to reload. No thirty- or hundred-round magazines. No heroin dealers defending their turf. No schoolroom massacres. And no bad guys waiting to clean out your gun collection while you're away on vacation.

[Today's](#) gun controversy is a complicated mess with multiple causes and a wide range of opinions. It won't get solved until the public's polarization gives way to a long season of mutually respectful dialogue. Let's pray that somehow, some day, an intelligent middle path will emerge. Meanwhile, let's go slow on this concealed carry thing. It's too easy for it to get out of control – just ask Travon Martin's grieving family and friends.

Robert D. Gillette MD

New Director Appointed to Ohio Department of Health;

Will Work with New Clinical Team

Rick Hodges, a former state legislator with healthcare executive experience, has been appointed director at the Ohio Department of Health. Gov. John Kasich also announced that Hodges will be assisted by a new clinical team that will consult and advise the new director on healthcare matters. That clinical team will be recruited by Mary Applegate, MD, currently the Medical Director at Ohio Medicaid. Dr. Applegate is a longtime supporter of the Ohio State Medical Association.

Hodges replaces Ted Wymyslo, MD, who resigned at the end of February to return to private practice in the Cincinnati-area. Dr. Wymyslo had been director since 2011.

2015 DUES INVOICES READY TO BE MAILED

The 2015 Membership Dues Invoices will be mailed to all current members by August 15th. Due date for payment is December 31, 2014. If you do not receive your invoice by the end of August, please call the office at 330-533-4880.

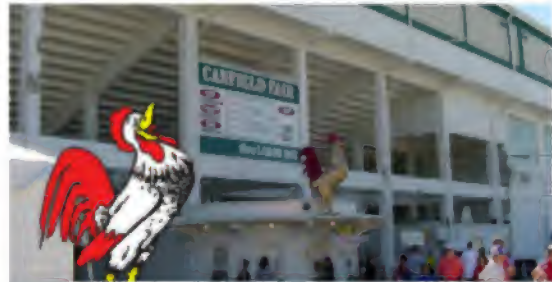
The MCMS will also be billing for the Trumbull County Medical Society this year. Trumbull invoices are expected to be sent at approximately the same time as MCMS.

Dues for the Mahoning County Medical Society have not increased since 2001. Dues are \$316 for Active members, \$158 for First Year in Practice and Part-time members, and \$280 for Second Year in Practice members. Retired members and Resident members pay no dues.

If you or someone you know is not currently a member of MCMS, applications are available on the website at www.mahoningmed.org, or by calling the office.

Deadline for ICD-10 Set for Oct. 1, 2015

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has set Oct. 1, 2015 as the new compliance date for health care providers, health plans, and health care clearinghouses to transition to ICD-10, the tenth revision of the International Classification of Diseases. The original deadline of Oct. 1, 2014 was shelved earlier this year when it became clear that preparations for ICD-10 would not be complete this year.



COME TO THE FAIR!

August 27th ~ September 1st

2014 marks the 168th year for the Canfield Fair. It also marks the 64th consecutive combined medical-health exhibit. The Canfield Fair ranks among the top in the nation in daily attendance. Attendance in 2013 was 301,168.

In 1951, the Mahoning County Medical Society organized an exhibition at the Canfield Fair that included volunteer health agencies and members of the health professions. It was set up in a tent and the annual exhibit has continued to this day. It is one of the outstanding non-commercial things the fair has to offer. Since 1971, the exhibits have been housed in a permanent building – one of the very few of its kind in the United States! This year the Medical/Health Building has been upgraded with new electrical throughout, the first major revision since 1988.

MCMS members volunteer to work in the "Ask the Doctor" booth in one of two shifts each day of the Fair - 11 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. or 4:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. There are still just a few spots available if you would like to volunteer!

VOTE FOR JUSTICES FRENCH AND KENNEDY!



Physicians need a stable and predictable medical liability climate in Ohio. That's why the Ohio Supreme Court election this year is extremely important. Over the past decade, the Ohio State Medical Association has worked diligently to implement and maintain tort reforms that continue to strengthen Ohio's medical liability laws. The impact of that work is real, as medical malpractice rates in Ohio have declined each of the past seven years. We want that trend to continue.

Put simply, a Court that espouses a philosophy of judicial restraint increases the likelihood of Ohio's tort reforms being upheld. What that means for you as physicians is this: access to reasonable liability insurance rates while caring for your patients in a stable environment. Visit [Justice French's website](#) and [Justice Kennedy's website](#) for more information.

Mock Rx pads and posters for the Supreme Court candidates are available in limited quantities from the Mahoning County Medical Society. Please call Karyn at 330-533-4880.

Justice Sharon Kennedy & Justice Judi French

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French for Justice and Kennedy for Ohio do not accept contributions from employees of the Ohio Supreme Court. Any employee who is inadvertently solicited should disregard the invitation to financially support these Committees.

Under state law, the maximum an individual may contribute to a campaign committee is \$3,600 per judicial candidate per election cycle and a PAC and Law Firm may contribute up to \$6,700 per judicial candidate. Corporate contributions are prohibited.

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HUNTINGTON Professional liability carrier NEWS:

ProAssurance: Effective [September 1, 2014](#) members of Ohio County Medical Societies will be eligible for the same premium credit now offered to members of the Ohio State Medical Association (OSMA). ProAssurance will provide a maximum **5% total premium credit** for either OSMA membership or county society membership. This is **in addition** to other credits offered by ProAssurance!

The effort for this credit came from the cooperative effort of our endorsed carrier, Huntington Insurance/Ed Hassay and your County Medical Society Executive Director, Karyn Fredrick. The MCMS continues its efforts to enhance member benefits and this is but yet another of those benefits!

The County Medical Society dues are: \$316/year . Consider the additional benefits of MCMS membership:

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ProAssurance has also announced its acquisition of MedMarc, a carrier nationally recognized for coverage to manufacturers and distributors of: Medical Devices, Dental and Personal use Products, Pharmaceuticals, Animal Health Devices and Products and Human Clinical Trials.

COVERYS: Continues as a MCMS endorsed carrier extending a 10% premium credit to society members from its already competitive premium base! Coverys continues to offer BOTH the occurrence and claims formats of coverage to Ohio physicians.

Just announced: The Creation of **Coverys Custom Accounts** established to service large account underwriting and services. It will include insurance services and management to self- insured prospects and alternative insurance programs.

Medical Protective: Its Immediate Conversion to Occurrence program continues to be successful to Ohio physicians desiring to return to this form of coverage. The tail endorsement is free upon conversion. Medical Protective also offers a retirement tail FREE to those converting existing claims made policies with Mature Retroactive dates, so comparing coverage even in your later practice years is possible.

The Doctors Company: The Tribute Program continues on its steady, cash building plan. For Physicians retiring from TDC, the Tribute program offers an enhancement to retirement plans! Complementing the Tribute plan are continuing dividend announcements from this national carrier.

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